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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Disinfection of the steamship Alton from Calcutta via Port Said and St. Michaels.*

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,  
Via Port Penn, Del., March 8, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows concerning the steamship *Alton*, released from this station yesterday at 4 p. m. after disinfection:

The steamship *Alton* arrived at this quarantine March 5, about noon. She was sixty-four days out from Calcutta via Port Said, Algiers, and St. Michaels, with a cargo of jute and hemp from Calcutta to this port. While in Calcutta the vessel lay at a wharf fourteen days and there was unrestricted communication with the shore. Two of the crew were shipped at that port. The captain stated that at the port of departure, at intermediate ports, and at sea the health of crew (except 1 man, a consumptive, who was left at Port Said, another being shipped in his place) was good.

At this station the crew was stripped and examined and found satisfactory. Early in the morning of March 6, the vessel was brought alongside the disinfecting pier and sulphuring of hold and forecabin begun. The sulphur pipes were led through ventilators leading to the lower holds, perfectly situated for the purpose, so that none of the cargo had to be broken out. After the delivery of the full charge of sulphur, these ventilators, together with the hatches, were tightly sealed.

The forecabin received twenty-four hours 10 per cent sulphur, and a bichloride washing. The cabin and officers' quarters received twelve hours sulphur, and all bedding, dunnage, etc., from the vessel were disinfected in the chambers either by steam or formalin. The bilge was flushed with bichloride. The vessel proceeded to Philadelphia this morning in free pratique.

Respectfully,

T. F. RICHARDSON,  
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.

*Sickness on the ship Mersey from Calcutta via Demerara.*

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,  
Via Port Penn, Del., March 8, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows concerning the ship *Mersey*, confirming telegram of yesterday:

The *Mersey* arrived at Calcutta August 8, and anchored at Princeps Ghat, at which place she lay during the entire stay in Calcutta. There was free communication with the shore. She loaded rice from lighters, using coolie labor, from August 25 to September 23. On September 26 649 coolies were taken aboard for conveyance to Demerara, and the vessel sailed next day, September 27. These coolies, the captain states, had passed a period of twenty days detention in a specially provided depot under strict medical surveillance. Aboard ship they were kept in the between deck space, but were allowed the freedom of the decks as much as possible. On October 12 the first death occurred in the person of a child; cause of death given as acute broncho-pneumonia. The last death occurred December 31 and was said to be due to puerperal septicæmia, in an adult female. The last pneumonia death occurred on November 28. There were 14 deaths in all, 8 being from acute lung disease.

The vessel arrived at Demerara January 1, and was passed by a